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Vision 2020 Standing Committee 05/18/2004

ARLINGTON VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2004 MEETING

Attendance: Joey Glushko, Gail Dubois, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Sherry Miller, Angela Olszewski, Ed Starr, Jeff Thielman, Patricia Watson.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 17 meeting were accepted as presented. (There are no minutes for April because that session was a review/refreshers with Cavas Gobhai rather than a business meeting. The notes compiled by his assistant were accepted as a record of the comments made at that meeting.)

Posting of minutes: The Town Manager wants the minutes of all Vision 2020 committees posted on, or linked to, the Town website, though this is legally required only for committees having a Town official as a member (i.e., the Standing Committee). This would require having all minutes made official by being formally approved at the next meeting before they are posted. A complete calendar of task group and committee meetings should also be posted. Policies and procedures, including deciding who does the posting, remain to be worked out – a job for the Communications task group. (Some task groups or committees have websites and already post their minutes, e.g. Diversity, Reservoir, Spy Pond; others like Sustainable Arlington don't.)

April event: There was a good mix of long-time and new participants. The discussion showed that the Vision 2020 goals need to be re-evaluated – they are more mission statements or ideals than goals. Another workshop, on techniques, is planned for the fall.

Attendance at meetings: Some Standing Committee members don't attend; all should be encouraged to attend or send a representative.

Recruitment for Vision 2020 was discussed: continue doing it at Town Day, when so much else is going on, or have a separate "committee fair" soon after Town Day, perhaps in conjunction with other groups looking for volunteers like the League of Women Voters? No consensus was reached.

What makes a successful task group? One thing needed is projects that get people interested and involved. Copies of the "Volunteer's Survival Manual" (surplus donated by the author) were distributed.

Task Group Reports – Diversity: The discussion on supporting gay marriage turned surprisingly contentious and led the group to begin reexamining its purpose.

This raises the question of who is a "member" and eligible to vote if a task group or committee wants to take a stand. Sustainable Arlington grappled with this question this past year and couldn't come to a conclusion. Attendance at meetings could be a criterion but it would exclude people who are very interested and work behind the scenes but have a conflict with scheduled meetings.

A future Standing Committee meeting should focus on policy issues like eligibility for voting and the relationship between the Standing Committee and task groups. The latter report to, but don't receive direction from, the former.